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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Eiki HASHIMOTO

Confirmation No.: 5984

Serial No.: 10/015,209

Filed: November 16, 2001

Title: **SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING APPARATUS
AND A SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING METHOD
IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF STEPS IN A CIRCUIT DESIGN
AND A LAYOUT DESIGN IS REDUCED**

Examiner: Annette M. Thompson

Group Art Unit: 2825

May 12, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated April 6, 2005, please amend the subject application as follows.